

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-67. (Canceled)

68. (Previously Presented) A method for configuring an appliance using a universal remote control having command keys, a transmission circuit for transmitting data, and a receiver circuit for receiving RF transmission, the method comprising:

storing within a memory device of the appliance a mapping between one or more appliance operational preferences and an individual;

receiving data directly from an RFID tag via the receiver of the universal remote control, the data from the RFID tag being unique to the individual;

forwarding from the universal remote control to the appliance via the transmission circuit the data received from the RFID tag; and

causing a setup program of the appliance to use the data received from the RFID tag and forwarded from the universal remote control to retrieve from the memory device of the appliance the one or more appliance operational preferences that have been mapped to the individual represented by the data received from the RFID tag and to configure the appliance according to the retrieved appliance operational preferences.

69. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 68, wherein the data received from the RFID tag and forwarded from the universal remote control is used by the setup procedure of

the appliance to limit access to an appliance function.

70. (Original) The method as recited in claim 68, wherein the appliance function is utilized to access content.

71. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 68 wherein the data received from the RFID tag is forwarded from the universal remote control to the appliance in a data field of a command transmission to the appliance.

72. (Previously Presented) A method for setting up a universal remote control having command keys, a transmission circuit for transmitting commands in response to activation of one or more command keys, and a receiver circuit for receiving RF transmissions, the method comprising:

receiving data through RF transmissions from a plurality of RFID tags via the receiver of the universal remote control, each RFID tag being associated with a different individual;

determining relative signal strength of the RF transmissions; and

using data received from the RFID tag corresponding to the RF transmissions having the greatest relative signal strength to cause select commands to be mapped to select command keys whereby the universal remote control is set up such that activation of one or more of the select command keys causes the universal remote control to issue via the transmission circuit one or more of the select commands to command operation of one or more appliances as established by one or more preferences that have been mapped to the individual represented by the used data.

73. (Original) The method as recited in claim 72, comprising displaying command keys

according to one or more preferences established for the individual represented by the used data.

74. (Original) The method as recited in claim 72, comprising limiting access to command keys by the individual represented by the used data.

75. (Original) The method as recited in claim 72, comprising making a favorite channels list accessible for the individual represented by the used data.

76. (Original) The method as recited in claim 72, wherein the preferences are stored locally on the universal remote control.

77. (Original) The method as recited in claim 72, wherein the preferences are stored remotely from the universal remote control.

78. (Original) The method as recited in claim 73, comprising establishing a connection with a server having the remotely stored preferences.

79. (Original) The method as recited in claim 78, comprising establishing the connection by means of an intermediate device.

80. (Original) The method as recited in claim 79, wherein the intermediate device comprises a cable set top box.

81. (Original) The method as recited in claim 79, wherein the intermediate device comprises a personal computer.

82. (Currently Amended) A method for setting up a universal remote control having a device dedicated to obtaining data from a machine readable tag and a separate transmission circuit for communicating commands to an appliance, the method comprising:

receiving into the universal remote control via the device of the universal remote control dedicated to obtaining data from a machine readable tag data obtained from a machine readable tag associated with an appliance, the machine readable tag storing standardized information that functions to identify at least the appliance and manufacturer of the appliance; and

using the data received into the universal remote control to access information to be used to configure the universal remote control; and

~~causing a setup procedure of the universal remote control to be invoked whereupon a the~~ setup procedure of the universal remote control uses the accessed information ~~data received into the universal remote control~~ to cause select commands to be mapped to select command keys of the universal remote control whereby the universal remote control is set up such that subsequent activation of one or more of the select command keys of the universal remote control causes the universal remote control to issue via the transmission circuit of the universal remote control one or more of the select commands to thereby command operation of the appliance associated with the machine readable tag from which the data was obtained via the device of the universal remote control dedicated to obtaining data from a machine readable tag.

83. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 82, wherein the machine readable tag

comprises a UPC label and the device of the universal remote control dedicated to obtaining data from a machine readable tag comprises a device dedicated to the purpose of obtaining data from the UPC label.

84. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 82, wherein the machine readable tag comprises an RFID label and the device of the universal remote control dedicated to obtaining data from a machine readable tag comprises a device dedicated to the purpose of obtaining data from the RFID label.

85. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 84, comprising using the accessed information ~~data received into the universal remote control~~ to select the select commands from a library of commands locally stored on the universal remote control.

86. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 84, ~~comprising using the data received into the universal remote control to select the select~~ wherein the accessed information comprises commands selected from a library of commands stored remotely from the universal remote control ~~and downloading the select commands into the universal remote control.~~

87. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 86, comprising causing the universal remote control to directly communicate with a server device associated with the library of commands.

88. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 86, comprising causing the universal

remote control to communicate via an intermediate device with a server device associated with the library of commands.

89. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 88, wherein the intermediate device comprises a cable set top box.

90. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 88, wherein the intermediate device comprises a personal computer.

91. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 84, wherein the setup procedure of the universal remote control further uses the data received into the universal remote control to automatically assign the appliance associated with the machine readable tag to a select operational mode of the universal remote control whereupon, in response to the universal remote control being placed into the select operational mode, the universal remote control is set up such that subsequent activation of one or more of the select command keys of the universal remote control causes the universal remote control to issue via a transmission circuit of the universal remote control one or more of the select commands to thereby command operation of the appliance associated with the machine readable tag without again requiring use of the device of the universal remote control dedicated to obtaining data from a machine readable tag.

92. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 84, comprising receiving user input into the universal remote control that specifies a select operational mode of the universal remote control to which the appliance associated with the machine readable tag is to be assigned

whereupon, in response to the universal remote control being placed into the select operational mode, the universal remote control is set up such that subsequent activation of one or more of the select command keys of the universal remote control causes the universal remote control to issue via the transmission circuit of the universal remote control one or more of the select commands to thereby command operation of the appliance associated with the machine readable tag without again requiring use of the device of the universal remote control dedicated to obtaining data from a machine readable tag.

93. (Currently Amended) A method for setting up a universal remote control having a device dedicated to obtaining data from a machine readable tag and a separate transmission circuit for communicating commands to an appliance, the method comprising:

receiving into the universal remote control via the device of the universal remote control dedicated to obtaining data from a machine readable tag data obtained from a plurality of machine readable tags each associated with an appliance, each of the plurality of machine readable tags storing standardized information that functions to identify at least its respectively associated appliance and manufacturer of its respectively associated appliance; and

using the data received into the universal remote control to access information to be used to configure the universal remote control; and

~~causing a setup procedure of the universal remote control to be invoked whereupon a the~~
setup procedure of the universal remote control uses the accessed information ~~data received into the universal remote control~~ to cause select commands to be mapped to select command keys of the universal remote control whereby the universal remote control is set up such that subsequent activation of one or more of the select command keys of the universal remote control causes the

universal remote control to issue via the transmission circuit of the universal remote control one or more of the select commands to command operation of one or more appliance associated with the plurality of machine readable tags from which data was obtained via the device of the universal remote control dedicated to obtaining data from a machine readable tag.

94. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 93, wherein each of the plurality of machine readable tags comprises a UPC label and the device of the universal remote control dedicated to obtaining data from a machine readable tag comprises a device dedicated to the purpose of obtaining data from the UPC label.

95. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 93, wherein each of the plurality of machine readable tags comprises an RFID label and the device of the universal remote control dedicated to obtaining data from a machine readable tag comprises a device dedicated to the purpose of obtaining data from the RFID label.

96. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 95, comprising using the accessed information ~~data received into the universal remote control~~ to select the select commands from a library of commands locally stored on the universal remote control.

97. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 95, wherein the accessed information comprises ~~comprising using the data received into the universal remote control to select the~~ select commands selected from a library of commands remotely stored from the universal remote control and ~~downloading the select commands into the universal remote control.~~

98. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 97, comprising causing the universal remote control to directly communicate with a server device associated with the library of commands.

99. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 97, comprising causing the universal remote control to communicate via an intermediate device with a server device associated with the library of commands.

100. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 99, wherein the intermediate device comprises a cable set top box.

101. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 99, wherein the intermediate device comprises a personal computer.

102. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 95, wherein the setup procedure of the universal remote control further uses the data received into the universal remote control to automatically assign the appliance associated with at least one of the plurality of machine readable tags to a select operational mode of the universal remote control whereupon, in response to the universal remote control being placed into the select operational mode, the universal remote control is set up such that subsequent activation of one or more of the select command keys of the universal remote control causes the universal remote control to issue via the transmission circuit of the universal remote control one or more of the select commands to

thereby command operation of the appliance associated with the one or more of the plurality of machine readable tags without again requiring use of the device of the universal remote control dedicated to obtaining data from a machine readable tag.

103. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 102, wherein the select operational mode of the universal remote control comprises a home theater mode.

104. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 102, wherein the select operational mode of the universal remote control comprises a room mode.

105. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 95, comprising receiving user input into the universal remote control that specifies at least one select operational mode of the universal remote control to which the appliance associated with one or more of the plurality of machine readable tags is to be assigned whereupon, in response to the universal remote control being placed into the select operational mode, the universal remote control is set up such that subsequent activation of one or more of the select command keys of the universal remote control causes the universal remote control to issue via the transmission circuit of the universal remote control one or more of the select commands to thereby command operation of the appliance associated with the one or more of the plurality of machine readable tags without again requiring use of the device of the universal remote control dedicated to obtaining data from a machine readable tag.

106. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 105, wherein the select operational

mode of the universal remote control comprises a home theater mode.

107. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 105, wherein the select operational mode of the universal remote control comprises a room mode.

108. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 84, further comprising transmitting from the universal remote control by the device of the universal remote control dedicated to obtaining data from a machine readable tag an RF signal to initiate obtaining of the data from the RFID tags.

109. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 84, wherein the device of the universal remote control dedicated to obtaining data from a machine readable tag obtains data from each of the plurality of machine readable tags within an area of radio communication with the universal remote control.

110. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

a remote control, the remote control having a first transmitter, a first receiver, and a setup procedure, the first transmitter to transmit an interrogation signal to a device, the first receiver to receive a device identifier for the device, and the setup procedure to configure the remote control using information for the device identifier, the information to configure the remote control to send control information to the device;

wherein the remote control further comprises a second transmitter and a second receiver, the second transmitter to transmit a request for the information to a first node, the request

including the device identifier, and the second receiver to receive the information from the first node:

111. (New) The apparatus as recited in claim 110, wherein the device identifier comprises an electronic product code.

112. (New) The apparatus as recited in claim 110, wherein the information comprises capability and configuration information necessary to configure the remote control to control the device.

113. (New) The apparatus as recited in claim 110, wherein the device identifier comprises a DAS transmission.

114. (New) The apparatus as recited in claim 110, wherein the device identifier comprises a FCD transmission.

115. (New) A system, comprising:

a device having a radio-frequency identification tag, the radio-frequency identification tag to communicate a device identifier in response to an interrogation signal; and

a remote control to remotely control the device, the remote control having a first antenna, a first transmitter, a first receiver, and a setup procedure, the first transmitter to transmit an interrogation signal to the device using the first antenna, the first receiver to receive the device identifier for the device using the first antenna, and the setup procedure to configure the remote control using information for the device identifier;

wherein the remote control further comprises a second transmitter and a second receiver, the second transmitter to transmit a request for the information to a first node, the request including the device identifier, and the second receiver to receive the information from the first node, the information to configure the remote control to send control information to the device.

116. (New) The system as recited in claim 115, wherein the device identifier comprises an electronic product code.

117. (New) The system as recited in claim 115, wherein the information comprises capability and configuration information necessary to configure the remote control to control the device.

118. (New) The system as recited in claim 115, wherein the device identifier comprises a DAS transmission.

119. (New) The system as recited in claim 115, wherein the device identifier comprises a FCD transmission.

120. (New) A method, comprising:

transmitting from a remote control an interrogation signal to a device capable of being controlled remotely;

receiving at the remote control a device identifier for the device;

sending from the remote control a request for information to a first node, the request including the device identifier;

receiving at the remote control the information from the first node; and
configuring the remote control using the information.

121. (New) The method as recited in claim 120, wherein the device identifier comprises an electronic product code.

122. (New) The method as recited in claim 120, wherein the information comprises capability and configuration information necessary to configure the remote control to control the device.

123. (New) The method as recited in claim 120, wherein the device identifier comprises a DAS transmission.

124. (New) The method as recited in claim 120, wherein the device identifier comprises a FCD transmission.

125. (New) An article comprising a medium storing instructions that when executed by a processor are operable to transmit an interrogation signal from a remote control to a device capable of being controlled remotely, receive at the remote control a device identifier for the device, send from the remote control a request for information to a first node, receive at the remote control the information from the first node, and configure the remote control using the information, wherein the request includes the device identifier.

126. (New) The article as recited in claim 125, wherein the device identifier comprises an

electronic product code.

127. (New) The article as recited in claim 125, wherein the information comprises capability and configuration information necessary to configure the remote control to control the device.

128. (New) The article as recited in claim 125, wherein the device identifier comprises a DAS transmission.

129. (New) The article as recited in claim 125, wherein the device identifier comprises a FCD transmission.